

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020



New Hope Lutheran Church
3125 5th Ave. S., Great Falls, MT (406) 315-1203
www.newhopegf.org
Rev. Tammy Bull, Pastor

Our mission: to share our faith in Christ by serving all with respectful compassion.

GATHERING

Gathering Music:

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude:

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who calls us to patience, attention, and hopefulness.

C: Amen.

L: Let us humbly make our confession before God. *(silence for reflection and self-examination)*

C: Holy God, we confess that we are not prepared for you to reign among us. We worship false idols and satisfy our own desires at the expense of others. In your mercy forgive us. Give us the courage and wisdom we need to work for justice and peace in our homes and in our world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

L: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In + Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Lift up your heads! The reign of God is near. **Amen.**

Gathering Song: Comfort, Comfort Now My People

ELW #256

1. "Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.
2. For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
Calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hills, bow down in humble favor.
3. Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is she abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Children's Time

L: As we gather in the darkness of winter and await the coming of Christ, we light three candles and pray:
Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior. Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations. **Amen.**

Children's Time

He Came Down (1 verse only)

He came down that we might have joy; he came down that we might have joy;

He came down that we might have joy; hallelujah forevermore!

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray together... **Spirit of the Lord God, you bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and release the prisoners. You comfort all who mourn, and shower your people with the oil of gladness instead of mourning; a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. We will greatly rejoice in the Lord, our whole being shall exult in God, for the sake of the one who brought righteousness to life, Jesus Christ, our salvation. Amen.**

WORD

L: The first reading is from the Old Testament book of Isaiah 61:1-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. [...]

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

L: The Gospel reading is according to Luke 4:16-21

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Tammy Bull

Hymn of the Day: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1,2,6,7,8 only)

ELW #257

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,

That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

2. O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
In strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. (refrain)
6. O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. (refrain)
7. O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:
Refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. (refrain)
8. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. (refrain)

L: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith...

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

L: the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

The Offering: (At this time we bring our gifts and offerings to God as an act of thankfulness and worship. Following the command of Jesus, we care for people in our congregation, our community, and the world in his name. We appreciate the faithfulness of our members in making regular contributions of your time, energy, prayers, and money to this work! If you are worshiping with us as a guest on-line or in-person, we invite you to join us in caring for God's people and God's world! Gifts of any size are greatly appreciated, and can be made on-line by tapping the easy-to-use GIVE button in our New Hope app, available for your smart phone here: <https://tithely.app.link/new-hope-lutheran-church> , by using the automatic bill paying service offered by your bank, or by sending a check to New Hope via US mail (3125 5th Ave S. GF, 59405). As the music plays, please take a moment to reflect on God's goodness, and consider what your gift of thanksgiving and worship might be. Thank you!)

Offertory Music:

Offertory Prayer: **Gracious God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, you call us from death to life, from silence to speech, from idleness to action. Use these gifts and the offerings of our lives to proclaim your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

P: As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the Church, the human family, and all the world. (Each petition ends... "Hear us, O God... **your mercy is great.**")

Let us pray with confidence the prayer Jesus taught: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING & SENDING: God blesses & sends us into the world to love & serve our neighbors

L: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Almighty God, Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song: Hark! The Glad Sound

ELW #239

1. Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne, and ev'ry voice a song.
2. He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.
3. He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
And with the riches of his grace to enrich the humble poor.
4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude:

Accompanist: James Rickley, organ

Song Leader: Jodie Tooley

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Prayer Focus: Joy (In your prayers this week, you are encouraged to breathe deeply¹ the joy of God's Spirit!)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Church Council will meet at 7 pm on Tuesday (12/15) via Zoom.
- A reading of the Christmas story and carols will be available as a Facebook Premier at 5 pm on Christmas Eve. There will be no in-person worship.
- Get the New Hope smart phone app at <https://tithely.app.link/new-hope-lutheran-church>
- Our congregation's constitution stipulates that voting members must be on record annually as having communed and contributed financial support for the ministry here. Communion will be offered next on 12/27/2020 via the Sunday worship livestream.